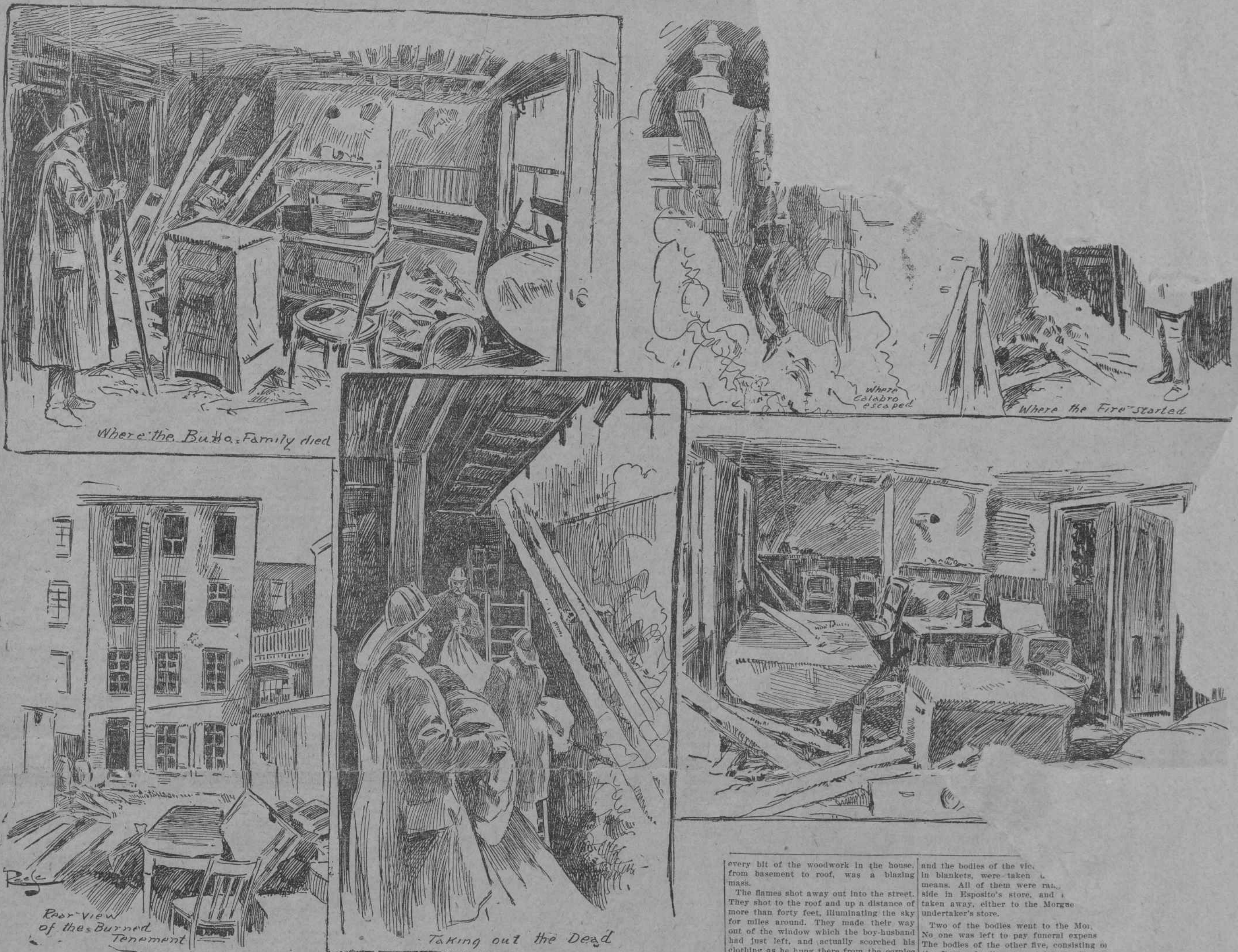


SCENES IN THE BURNING OF A BROOKLYN TENEMENT

TEN DIE IN FLAMES
AN INCENDIARY SET.

The Single Blazing Stair of a Frail Tenement Cuts Off Escape.

Rungs of the One Fire Ladder Were Too Hot to Hold or to Stand On.

Frenzy of a Boy Husband Trying to Save His Wife, and His Rescue Swinging in Mid-Air.

ONE ONLY OF TWO FAMILIES LIVES.

In the Theories of Brooklyn Police a Vendetta of a Sicilian Against a Neapolitan May Account for the Fire.

A torch in the hands of an incendiary caused the loss of ten lives in a fire in the four-story brick tenement No. 36 Union street, Brooklyn, yesterday morning.

The dead: BUONO, AUGUSTINE, aged thirty-six years, a longshoreman, employed on the Brooklyn water front.

BUONO, MARIE, his wife, aged thirty-seven years.

BUONO, FANNIE, a daughter, aged five years.

BUONO, GIUSEPPE, a son, aged eighteen months.

CALABRIA, LENA, their married daughter, aged seventeen years. Her husband alone escaped from the floor upon which they lived.

TROGLIA, NATALI, thirty-five years old, a truckman, employed at Pier 26, North River.

TROGLIA, LENA, his wife, aged twenty-five years.

TROGLIA, DOMINICO, a son, aged four years.

TROGLIA, an unnamed infant son, who was born only seventeen days ago.

MOROTTO, CAMILLA, twenty-five years old, wife of Genaro Morotto, a seaman, employed on a schooner plying between this port and Philadelphia.

The house No. 36 Union street is within

a stone's throw of the Hamilton Ferry, which runs to the Battery, this city. It is in the heart of the Italian colony of Brooklyn, and is one of a row of five houses owned by Edward Kane & Co., wholesale and retail liquor dealers, whose main place of business is at No. 24 in the same street. The ground floor of each house is used for store purposes, while each of the three floors overhead is built for the accommodation of a single family.

ARRANGEMENT OF THE FLATS. There are five rooms to every floor, consisting of a large and a small room in the front, facing on Union street, similar rooms in the rear, and a dark bedroom between the hall and stairway. The houses might be called old-fashioned. They were put up many years ago, but have been repaired and painted from time to time. Each house is supplied with a fire-escape, the one prescribed by the Fire Department, which the experience of yesterday proves to be useless.

The fire-escape is located in the rear of each house and consists of a single vertical iron ladder. It runs up the back of the house nearly two feet away from the nearest window. In case of fire or other danger the inmates would be compelled to get up on a narrow window sill and take a long reach over to grasp the iron bars.

At the time when the fire started sixteen persons were asleep. They were Giuseppe Esposito, who, besides running a grocery store on the ground floor, lives with his wife and three children on the floor above. The Troglia family, all of whom lost their lives, lived on the second floor, and the Buonos and Calabrias lived on the top floor.

There are two theories on which the police and Fire Marshal base their claim that the fire and wholesale loss of life were the work of an incendiary. One is that less than two hours before an attempt was made to burn up another Italian tenement, diagonally across the street. The second reason is the warfare which for years has existed among different elements of the Italian colony.

PROVINCIAL HATRED. The colony is about evenly divided between Neapolitans and Sicilians. The latter, according to the police and those who have lived in that section for years, are of a quarrelsome nature. They have an undying hatred of the Neapolitans. Fights have been of frequent occurrence and the stiletto has played a prominent part in most of the brawls. There is a possibility, the police think, that the incendiarism of yesterday morning may have been the work of a Sicilian who was anxious for revenge

upon some one of the persons who lived in the Union street house.

At 1:45 o'clock yesterday morning an alarm was turned in for a fire in the Italian tenement No. 19 Union street. The ground floor is occupied by L. Balbi & Co., wholesale commission merchants. The three upper floors are filled by Italian families.

HAD BEEN SET AFIRE. When the firemen arrived they found two mattresses, filled with excelsior, burning briskly on top of a bench in the hall, directly back of a wooden closet and with the main staircase overhead. The mattresses had been saturated with kerosene. The woodwork of the closet had actually caught fire. The blaze was quickly extinguished. The firemen took notes and made a report to the Fire Marshal of its undoubted incendiary origin.

In the crowd that collected was Giovanni Calabria, husband of one of the young women who later lost their lives. He crossed to the opposite side of the street and went to his room on the top floor, where his wife, her father and mother and their children were sleeping. The father and mother occupied the big bedroom in front. Their eighteen-months-old boy had the room adjoining. The five-year-old daughter, Fannie, lived with her sister Lena and brother-in-law in the rear bedroom.

Less than two hours later—or at 3:35 o'clock—Grocer Esposito, who lived on the first floor, was awakened by smoke and the noise of crackling wood. He ran to the front windows and began to call "Fire!" "Police!" His outcry aroused Anthony Sessa, a money-lender, who lives in the building next door—No. 40—and he asked what the matter was.

"The whole hallway and the staircase is on fire," Esposito replied.

ESPOSITO'S FAMILY SAVED.

About the same moment Salvatore Lauro, who keeps a grocery store two houses away, ran into the street. When he got in front of No. 36 the smoke was issuing from several windows. Grocer Esposito and his family seemed to have been cut off by the flames, so Lauro ran through the hallway of Sessa's house and up into the latter's room on the first floor. Then he got out on the ledge, over the store windows, and, aided by Sessa, he rescued all of Esposito's family. The work of rescue was anything but easy. The ledge was something less than twelve inches wide, and over this Esposito's wife and children had to be carried.

Even before the last one had been taken out a crowd of at least five hundred excited Italians were in the street, shouting and in every way trying to alarm the other occupants of the house.

It was this noise, according to his account, that awakened Giovanni Calabria. Only a few minutes could have elapsed, yet

in that time it seemed that every bit of woodwork in the interior of the house had caught fire simultaneously. Dense volumes of smoke filled every back and corner of the building. The floorings and staircases of the two lower floors were crackling away, while the heat was intense.

Calabria, although married, is little more than a boy, being scarcely seventeen years old and working as a laborer. In the excitement of the moment he had only one thought—his wife. On awakening he jumped out of bed and threw on some of his clothing, then ran to a window to ascertain the cause and the extent of the fire. He saw the fire roaring below.

HIS WIFE NEARLY HELPLESS.

Franz with fear, the boy-husband dashed back into the bedroom where his wife was sleeping and aroused her. The fact that she was soon to become a mother rendered her almost helpless. He says he dragged her from the bed and half carried, half dragged her to the rear window, where he knew the only fire-escape was located.

He got up on the window sill and reached over to catch the iron rails of the fire-escape. His intention being to help his wife out from that position. From every window below him, however, great tongues of flame were shooting out a distance of ten or more feet. The blaze wrapped around the ladies, the rings of which he found were almost red-hot. On account of the heat he could not stand upon the ladder, neither could he hold on to it, so, in despair, he jumped back again into the room beside his wife.

By that time she had fainted, but she rallied under her husband's cheering words. Then he put his arms around her waist and half carried her into the room occupied by her parents and over to the front window nearest to Sessa's house. There the woman fainted and she dropped in a heap at his feet.

It was almost impossible at that time for anybody to breathe and live in the room on account of the smoke. To add to the terror, the hall outside, as well as the top staircase, was in flames, and the doors and woodwork on the top rooms began emitting smoke that pressed a blaze. Calabria came maddened with fear, and, forgetting everything, even the unconscious form of his wife—this bride of nine months—he left her and climbed out on the window sill.

Sessa's house next door is nearly a story lower. It is surmounted by a big coping, the top of which it was possible for Calabrio to reach, as it was scarcely five feet above his head and about two feet away from the window ledge.

He had not left the window sill a minute before the flames began to follow him. The door and wainscoting of the room which he had just left emitted sparks simultaneously. Then the flames spread just like a river of fire, the tide of which did not turn out

every bit of the woodwork in the house, from basement to roof, was a blazing mass.

The flames shot away out into the street. They shot to the roof and up a distance of more than forty feet, illuminating the sky for miles around. They made their way out of the window which the boy-husband had just left, and actually scorched his clothing as he hung there from the cornice or coping.

In the meantime the police had been notified and an alarm turned in, which brought the firemen to the scene. Four ladders were run up at the front of the burning building and on one of these Calabrio came down to the street.

ALL HIS FAMILY DEAD.

He stood like one in a dream. The suddenness of the blow which had fallen upon him seemed for the time being to have deprived him of reason. He kept muttering incoherently and then disappeared in the crowd. His wife and every member of her family were then dead. It had been forty-five minutes from the time of the alarm to the burning out of the tenement.

When the firemen later made a search of that floor they found that most of the furniture had been reduced to charcoal. Nothing like woodwork could be seen anywhere. Everything was black and twisted. In the front room they found the body of Buono, the father of the family, with the dead body of his eighteen-months-old boy, Giovanni, clutched in his arms. Near him lay the body of Mrs. Buono. In another room lay the body of the daughter, Fannie. The body of the other daughter, Lena, the wife of Calabrio, was found just in the place where she had fallen unconscious from her husband's arms.

How swiftly death came to the Troglia family, on the second floor, could only be imagined from the condition of the bodies when found after the fire had been extinguished. All of them were discovered in the large front bedroom, as if, on the first alarm, all had huddled together for imaginary safety. A cheap sofa stood against the wall of the room, and on this three of the bodies were lying—the mother, the unnamed infant and the four-year-old boy. Even when in the last agony of suffocation the mother had tried to save her infant. It was found in the hollow caused by the elbow of the sofa, shielded by its mother's body. Her hands and arms were so placed as if she tried to shield the babe by every means in her power. On the floor, two feet from the sofa, lying at full length, was the body of her husband.

THE TENTH VICTIM.

Camilla Morotto, the only other victim to be accounted for, rented the back room of the third floor from the Troglia family. She was only twenty-five years old and came here a bride from Italy five months ago. Before her marriage she was known as Camilla Caecania. Her seafaring husband is now on a trip to Philadelphia. She must have been awakened at the first alarm of fire and rushed toward the front room for safety. She got half way into the dark between, and there sank down and died.

When the firemen started to search the building they found that nearly all the staircases had been burned away. What was left of them was so dangerous that no one could ascend. A number of ladders were put up where the stairways had been,

and the bodies of the victims, in blankets, were taken to the morgue. All of them were taken, side in Esposito's store, and taken away, either to the Morgue or to the undertaker's store.

Two of the bodies went to the Morgue. No one was left to pay funeral expenses. The bodies of the other five, consisting of the Buono family, were taken to Sessa's undertaking store, No. 43 President street.

THE FUNERAL OF FIVE.

At 2 o'clock in the afternoon the funeral services were held in the Catholic church, a few doors away from the undertaker's store. Five caskets, covered with flowers, were ranged on a catafalque within the chancel rail. Eight large candles, intended for the regular church services to-day, were lighted. The funeral services were read in the church by the pastor, who also delivered a short address, which caused many of the women present to weep.

Four hearses were in readiness, the caskets containing mother and babe going in one. The five bodies were interred in the one grave in Holy Cross cemetery.

The police expect to have a detailed report regarding the alleged incendiarism ready for the Superintendent to-day. They believe the fire was started under the stairs in the hallway. A quantity of coal and wood is stored there, and as the hall door is always open, it would be easy for any one to throw some combustible matter there.

Many rumors were floating around after the fire. One was to the effect that there had been an explosion in the house shortly before the fire. This, however, could not be proved.

The police are not satisfied with Calabrio's explanation as to how he came to be fully dressed, while all the others in the house were in their nightclothes.

Insurance money could not have been the motive for the crime, for the reason that no one in the house was insured except Esposito, and his policies for furniture and goods only amounted to \$500.

The police have a suspicion that a man in the house, who escaped, set the place afire, and he is under surveillance.

DRISCOLL'S FRIENDS ACT.

Fellow Postal Employees Declare That Charges Made Against Him Were Unfounded.

At a special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Postal Employees Mutual Aid Association, held March 31, the following resolution and resolution were unanimously adopted:

Whereas, The below charges made in the public press of last week against E. O. Driscoll are, in our judgment, unfounded, and,

Whereas, Such an attack upon our fellow member presents an emergency calling for our assistance;

Resolved, That the president and secretary be a committee to confer with Mr. Driscoll, and to extend to him the aid of this association in adopting remedies for the redress of this wrong, and that said committee report thereon, to this board at its next meeting.

This association is a large and influential body among the postal employees of this and other cities. It has at present about 1,200 members and is rapidly adding thereto.

GENESEE FLOODS ROCHE

And the Trestle Bridge Over Black

Is Likely to Give Way.

Rochester, N. Y., April 1.—Only fore in the history of Rochester, in 1865, has the Genesee River been as it has been to-day. The river the banks in the southern part of the city. It has washed away part of the road tracks. The houses are water and the occupants have their homes. The city is much excited over the fact that there should be a great rush the water over the large part of the dance part of the city.

This morning a fast passenger train the Central Railroad, going East, over bridge over Black Creek, between his Churchville, was so badly shaken by the stone work on the west side of bridge having been undermined by the water. The discovery was made in time to stop a fast freight that was coming from the West. The bridge is gradually sinking and in spite of all the efforts to save it, the belief is that it will give way.

The Largest Auction Room

S. Fitzski & Son, the well-known auctioneers have removed to Nos. 79 and 81 Bow Canal street. The new auction room is the largest in the United States. In the store, where the jewelry sales take place is an immense skylight, and that part of the store is surrounded by a balcony where purchasers may sit in their bids. The rooms are handsomely painted in a look very inviting. The first sale in room takes place to-day.

The People's Con

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